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### **TEXTILE PLANT EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST: ANNUAL AVERAGE 2000**

Southeastern<sup>1</sup> textile plants employed an average of 380,200 workers in 2000, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that annual average employment reflected an over-the-year decrease of 15,500 jobs from the 1999 average. The average workweek of factory workers increased 0.7 percent from 1999 while average hourly earnings increased 2.9 percent. The increase in both average hourly earnings and average weekly hours resulted in a 3.6 percent rise in average weekly earnings for textile production workers.

#### Employment

Employment in the U.S. textile industry is concentrated in the Southeast. Approximately 70 percent of all textile workers are employed in the eight states in the Southeast; a slight decrease from the proportion reported in 1999. From 1999 to 2000, average employment in southeastern textile mills dropped 3.9 percent, a total of 15,500. Proportionally, the Southeast accounted for over 80 percent of the job losses in this industry in 2000, a higher percentage than was recorded in 1999.

North Carolina, which accounts for the greatest share of workers, recorded the largest numerical decrease of 10,400, while Mississippi had the largest percent decrease of 8.7 percent. South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama also recorded decreases over the year. Florida reported virtually no change in employment, while Kentucky recorded a small increase in employment, rising by 200 jobs over the year.

#### Hours and Earnings

Historically, average hourly earnings for textile workers in the Southeast have lagged the national average. This year, earnings rose faster in the Southeast than for the industry nationally with average hourly earnings rising 2.9 percent in the Southeast to \$10.74, while the national average increased 2.2 percent to \$10.95. With the increase, textile plant workers in the Southeast earned 98 percent of hourly workers nationally, up from 97 percent in 1999. The survey covers a wide range of production occupations with different skill levels within the textile industry, so changes in average hourly earnings for the industry may reflect changes in the mix of occupations employed at plants as well as increases in pay for individual occupations.

In 2000, average weekly earnings in the textile industry in the Southeast rose faster than in the nation, resulting from faster growth in average hourly earnings and average weekly hours. Southeast

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<sup>1</sup> The Southeast includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

average weekly earnings rose 3.6 percent to \$449.26, while nationally, earnings grew 2.7 percent to \$450.05. Georgia continued to have the highest earnings in the Southeast. The state's average hourly earnings rose 4.7 percent to \$11.12 while average weekly hours increased 0.5 percent, resulting in a 5.2 percent gain in average weekly earnings to \$473.71. Florida posted the region's lowest weekly earnings at \$375.72, down 10 percent over the year. The lower earnings were due to a 6.9 percent decrease in average hourly earnings to \$9.30, and a 3.3 percent drop in average weekly hours to 40.4.

#### Technical Note

All estimates in this release are adjusted to first quarter 2000 benchmark levels. Data relate to all full-time and part-time employment in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee and were compiled by state employment security agencies in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data are based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual. A brief technical description of statistics based on establishment records is presented in the explanatory notes of Employment and Earnings, a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment data from the CES program are available at <http://www.bls.gov/790home.htm>. Information in this release is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Textile products industry employment in the Southeast, by month, 1951-2000 (in thousands)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
1951	599.4	602.3	603.9	575.2	581.3	590.0	581.4	580.1	576.6	575.2	574.8	577.4	584.8
1952	575.6	573.0	570.1	566.3	561.9	565.4	563.4	577.9	581.5	587.2	591.0	592.8	575.5
1953	587.6	587.8	589.3	583.0	581.6	584.3	576.2	579.6	578.0	572.1	569.1	565.7	579.6
1954	557.4	555.6	553.0	549.7	544.4	545.5	535.9	545.3	552.4	556.5	560.4	561.0	551.5
1955	561.6	563.3	563.3	562.6	561.6	564.6	559.8	566.3	568.5	571.9	574.8	576.1	566.2
1956	573.5	570.6	565.9	559.0	555.5	555.7	547.9	556.1	556.6	558.9	560.9	560.7	560.1
1957	555.6	552.7	550.7	548.5	544.6	543.3	538.1	544.7	544.6	543.8	539.9	539.3	545.5
1958	530.4	527.4	523.3	517.3	513.3	515.6	512.9	523.7	527.2	529.1	532.1	531.3	523.7
1959	529.7	531.2	531.7	530.5	531.9	534.6	535.0	540.7	542.0	542.6	541.5	540.6	536.0
1960	537.2	534.6	536.4	535.1	533.7	535.1	530.5	536.0	534.0	531.9	529.8	528.7	533.6
1961	522.2	520.8	519.2	519.8	521.9	526.3	525.0	531.2	533.3	534.8	535.3	535.5	527.1
1962	533.5	534.7	534.5	533.7	534.6	538.9	533.9	539.8	539.7	537.8	537.8	536.0	536.2
1963	532.1	530.8	531.3	532.4	532.3	534.3	531.0	537.6	537.3	538.3	539.0	539.2	534.7
1964	537.2	539.1	539.5	540.0	540.5	544.8	539.1	547.7	548.4	551.4	554.0	554.9	544.8
1965	555.0	556.9	558.9	562.4	563.7	569.4	568.1	572.5	574.5	576.7	581.1	589.7	569.1
1966	583.0	585.7	588.0	591.2	594.2	602.8	597.4	606.1	606.0	607.5	609.6	609.8	598.4
1967	607.3	604.1	603.4	600.5	600.6	609.1	601.3	611.6	611.8	614.9	618.7	621.1	608.6
1968	619.2	624.4	625.0	625.1	627.5	637.6	634.1	642.4	641.0	642.4	646.9	648.2	634.5
1969	648.5	651.0	648.5	646.1	644.8	654.7	650.4	655.0	652.3	650.5	652.6	652.5	650.6
1970	653.4	648.6	647.1	647.4	638.2	641.3	635.5	640.8	639.0	635.2	634.8	634.6	641.3
1971	630.3	629.3	628.6	630.1	629.8	635.7	628.1	637.4	638.8	638.7	643.7	646.2	634.7
1972	638.9	639.3	644.0	644.9	646.4	655.8	648.1	656.0	656.3	659.2	665.0	669.7	651.9
1973	668.1	672.0	672.8	671.3	671.0	681.3	669.8	673.9	673.6	675.1	679.5	680.5	674.1
1974	677.7	674.0	671.2	668.9	669.6	677.7	663.4	667.8	659.9	636.0	616.0	596.3	656.5
1975	561.4	552.7	547.4	558.5	571.4	581.0	580.9	597.6	604.6	612.6	616.2	620.1	583.8
1976	622.6	623.6	623.6	625.8	629.0	632.0	615.9	626.5	625.2	620.8	621.7	621.5	623.9
1977	617.7	615.8	621.0	625.8	626.3	631.0	617.2	624.2	621.5	620.5	620.4	620.6	621.9
1978	615.0	616.4	616.9	612.9	614.6	617.7	607.0	614.5	616.1	615.2	617.7	618.0	615.2
1979	614.4	613.8	611.9	608.4	609.7	612.9	603.0	606.5	603.9	604.1	604.9	605.2	608.0
1980	600.4	601.9	602.9	598.9	591.1	578.8	564.2	579.1	577.2	576.0	577.6	578.2	585.5

Table 1. Textile products industry employment in the Southeast, by month, 1951-2000 (in thousands) continued

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
1981	576.6	575.0	574.6	572.3	572.1	574.9	567.7	570.7	572.1	559.1	556.2	547.4	568.2
1982	541.4	539.0	526.3	533.5	524.6	514.7	507.2	515.9	517.6	515.5	509.8	510.1	521.2
1983	505.0	506.0	508.3	512.6	515.4	521.9	517.2	527.5	530.5	529.9	528.7	528.6	519.2
1984	527.1	526.6	528.5	530.1	528.7	525.3	515.1	517.4	515.8	507.2	502.1	499.0	518.7
1985	495.4	489.8	487.3	491.8	487.3	487.2	476.6	485.5	487.3	488.2	489.2	489.5	487.9
1986	488.0	489.3	489.5	489.8	492.0	494.1	490.1	496.5	496.3	498.4	500.1	500.6	493.7
1987	501.7	503.2	505.3	508.6	510.6	514.1	512.6	517.8	519.9	519.5	520.4	520.0	512.9
1988	518.9	520.7	521.5	520.4	521.0	522.8	519.4	519.1	524.3	521.2	519.1	518.2	520.5
1989	516.4	517.6	519.1	520.3	520.7	524.6	517.8	521.1	519.7	521.6	520.3	519.0	519.9
1990	515.3	513.5	512.2	511.8	511.3	514.2	502.5	508.7	506.3	500.3	499.5	494.0	507.5
1991	485.1	479.4	481.1	480.4	482.1	485.8	480.9	487.2	488.1	488.6	488.8	488.5	484.6
1992	487.2	486.5	487.3	490.1	492.1	494.2	490.5	493.1	494.9	490.2	491.1	491.7	490.7
1993	490.1	490.1	491.9	493.6	493.7	496.0	492.8	493.3	493.0	490.2	490.7	491.2	492.2
1994	486.1	485.9	486.0	489.2	489.9	493.7	490.6	495.6	495.3	493.6	493.8	493.7	491.1
1995	489.3	487.6	487.0	486.2	484.5	482.0	471.4	473.9	471.3	467.4	467.1	464.9	477.7
1996	453.4	453.6	451.9	451.0	452.8	454.4	448.2	451.8	448.1	448.7	446.9	447.6	450.7
1997	443.1	442.2	442.1	440.1	440.4	441.5	437.9	439.2	438.5	435.1	433.9	434.8	439.1
1998	428.0	426.3	428.1	425.6	425.2	425.1	418.8	418.3	420.2	413.5	412.0	410.4	421.1
1999	407.1	405.2	404.3	399.6	398.8	398.8	392.9	390.9	390.1	388.7	387.8	387.7	395.7
2000	381.6	382.6	382.9	383.6	383.3	384.4	381.5	381.2	380.7	376.9	375.1	373.2	380.2

NOTE: Data include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers on textile plant payrolls in the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee) and are based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SICM). Data for 1999 differ slightly from data previously published due to the introduction of the 2000 benchmark levels.

Table 2. Index of employment in the textile products industry in the Southeast, by month, 1951-2000 (1982=100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
1951	115.0	115.6	115.9	110.4	111.5	113.2	111.6	111.3	110.6	110.4	110.3	110.8	112.2
1952	110.4	109.9	109.4	108.7	107.8	108.5	108.1	110.9	111.6	112.7	113.4	113.7	110.4
1953	112.7	112.8	113.1	111.9	111.6	112.1	110.6	111.2	110.9	109.8	109.2	108.5	111.2
1954	106.9	106.6	106.1	105.5	104.5	104.7	102.8	104.6	106.0	106.8	107.5	107.6	105.8
1955	107.8	108.1	108.1	107.9	107.8	108.3	107.4	108.7	109.1	109.7	110.3	110.5	108.6
1956	110.0	109.5	108.6	107.3	106.6	106.6	105.1	106.7	106.8	107.2	107.6	107.6	107.5
1957	106.6	106.0	105.7	105.2	104.5	104.2	103.2	104.5	104.5	104.3	103.6	103.5	104.7
1958	101.8	101.2	100.4	99.3	98.5	98.9	98.4	100.5	101.2	101.5	102.1	101.9	100.5
1959	101.6	101.9	102.0	101.8	102.1	102.6	102.6	103.7	104.0	104.1	103.9	103.7	102.8
1960	103.1	102.6	102.9	102.7	102.4	102.7	101.8	102.8	102.5	102.1	101.7	101.4	102.4
1961	100.2	99.9	99.6	99.7	100.1	101.0	101.7	101.9	102.3	102.6	102.7	102.7	101.1
1962	102.4	102.6	102.6	102.4	102.6	103.4	102.4	103.6	103.5	103.2	103.2	102.8	102.9
1963	102.1	101.8	101.9	102.1	102.1	102.5	101.9	103.1	103.1	103.3	103.4	103.5	102.6
1964	103.1	103.4	103.5	103.6	103.7	104.5	103.4	105.1	105.2	105.8	106.3	106.5	104.5
1965	106.5	106.8	107.2	107.9	108.2	109.2	109.0	109.8	110.2	110.6	111.5	113.1	109.1
1966	111.9	112.4	112.8	113.4	114.0	115.7	114.6	116.3	116.3	116.6	117.0	117.0	114.9
1967	116.5	115.9	115.8	115.2	115.2	116.9	115.4	117.3	117.4	118.0	118.7	119.2	116.8
1968	118.8	119.8	119.9	119.9	120.4	122.3	121.7	123.3	123.0	123.3	124.1	124.4	121.8
1969	124.4	124.9	124.4	124.0	123.7	125.6	124.8	125.7	125.2	124.8	125.2	125.2	124.8
1970	125.4	124.4	124.2	124.2	122.4	123.0	121.9	122.9	122.6	121.9	121.8	121.8	123.0
1971	120.9	120.7	120.6	120.9	120.8	122.0	120.5	122.3	122.6	122.5	123.5	124.0	121.8
1972	122.6	122.7	123.6	123.7	124.0	125.8	124.3	125.9	125.9	126.5	127.6	128.5	125.1
1973	128.2	128.9	129.1	128.8	128.7	130.7	128.5	129.3	129.2	129.5	130.4	130.6	129.3
1974	130.0	129.3	128.8	128.3	128.5	130.0	127.3	128.1	126.6	122.0	118.2	114.4	126.0
1975	107.7	106.0	105.0	107.2	109.6	111.5	111.5	114.7	116.0	117.5	118.2	119.0	112.0
1976	119.5	119.6	119.6	120.1	120.7	121.3	118.2	120.2	120.0	119.1	119.3	119.2	119.7
1977	118.5	118.2	119.1	120.1	120.2	121.1	118.4	119.8	119.2	119.1	119.0	119.1	119.3
1978	118.0	118.3	118.4	117.6	117.9	118.5	116.5	117.9	118.2	118.0	118.5	118.6	118.0
1979	117.9	117.8	117.4	116.7	117.0	117.6	115.7	116.4	115.9	115.9	116.1	116.1	116.7
1980	115.2	115.5	115.7	114.9	113.4	111.1	108.3	111.1	110.7	110.5	110.8	110.9	112.4

Table 2. Index of employment in the textile products industry in the Southeast, by month, 1951-2000 (1982=100) continued

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
1981	110.6	110.3	110.2	109.8	109.8	110.3	108.9	109.5	109.8	107.3	106.7	105.0	109.0
1982	103.9	103.4	101.0	102.4	100.7	98.8	97.3	99.0	99.3	98.9	97.8	97.9	100.0
1983	96.9	97.1	97.5	98.3	98.9	100.1	99.2	101.2	101.8	101.7	101.4	101.4	99.6
1984	101.1	101.0	101.4	101.7	101.4	100.8	98.8	99.3	99.0	97.3	96.3	95.7	99.5
1985	95.0	94.0	93.5	94.4	93.5	93.5	91.4	93.2	93.5	93.7	93.9	93.9	93.6
1986	93.6	93.9	93.9	94.0	94.4	94.8	94.0	95.3	95.2	95.6	96.0	96.0	94.7
1987	96.3	96.5	96.9	97.6	98.0	98.6	98.3	99.3	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.8	98.4
1988	99.6	99.9	100.1	99.8	100.0	100.3	99.7	99.6	100.6	100.0	99.6	99.4	99.9
1989	99.1	99.3	99.6	99.8	99.9	100.7	99.3	100.0	99.7	100.1	99.8	99.6	99.7
1990	98.9	98.5	98.3	98.2	8.1	98.7	96.4	97.6	97.1	96.0	95.8	94.8	97.4
1991	93.1	92.0	92.3	92.0	92.4	93.2	92.9	94.1	94.2	94.2	94.4	94.5	93.3
1992	93.5	93.3	93.5	94.0	94.4	94.8	94.1	94.6	94.9	94.0	94.2	94.3	94.1
1993	94.0	94.0	94.4	94.7	94.7	95.2	94.6	94.6	94.6	94.1	94.1	94.2	94.4
1994	93.3	93.2	93.2	93.9	94.0	94.7	94.1	95.1	95.0	94.7	94.7	94.7	94.2
1995	93.9	93.6	93.4	93.3	92.9	92.5	90.4	90.9	90.4	89.7	89.6	89.2	91.6
1996	87.0	87.0	86.7	86.5	86.9	87.2	86.0	86.7	86.0	86.1	85.7	85.9	86.5
1997	85.0	84.8	84.8	84.4	84.5	84.7	84.0	84.3	84.1	83.5	83.2	83.4	84.2
1998	82.1	81.8	82.1	81.7	81.6	81.6	80.4	80.3	80.6	79.3	79.0	78.7	80.8
1999	78.1	77.7	77.6	76.7	76.5	76.5	75.4	75.0	74.8	74.6	74.4	74.4	75.9
2000	73.2	73.4	73.5	73.6	73.5	73.8	73.2	73.1	73.0	72.3	72.0	71.6	72.9

NOTE: Index values relate to the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee) and are based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SICM). Index values for 1999 differ slightly from those previously published due to the introduction of the 2000 benchmark levels.

Table 3. Annual average employment, textile workers for the nation, Southeast, and states (Numbers in thousands)

Area	Employment			
	1999	Net change 2000	Percent change 1999-2000	1999-2000
Southeast	395.7	380.2	-15.5	-3.9
Alabama	38.1	37.7	-0.4	-1.0
Florida	3.8	3.7	-0.1	-2.6
Georgia	103.7	102.2	-1.5	-1.4
Kentucky	4.0	4.2	0.2	5.0
Mississippi	4.6	4.2	-0.4	-8.7
North Carolina	154.1	143.7	-10.4	-6.7
South Carolina	71.3	68.9	-2.4	-3.4
Tennessee	16.1	15.6	-0.5	-3.1
United States	560.2	541.3	-18.9	-3.4

Table 4. Annual average weekly hours and gross average earnings of textile production workers for the nation, Southeast, and states<sup>1/</sup>

	Average hourly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average weekly earnings		
	1999	2000	Percent change 1999-2000	1999	2000	Percent change 1999-2000	1999	2000	Percent change 1999-2000
Southeast	\$10.44	\$10.74	2.9	41.5	41.8	0.7	\$433.62	\$449.26	3.6
Alabama	10.58	10.57	-0.1	41.9	41.6	-0.7	443.30	439.71	-0.8
Florida	9.99	9.30	-6.9	41.8	40.4	-3.3	417.58	375.72	-10.0
Georgia	10.62	11.12	4.7	42.4	42.6	0.5	450.29	473.71	5.2
Kentucky	10.31	11.19	8.5	40.7	40.6	-0.2	419.62	454.31	8.3
Mississippi	9.68	9.93	2.6	36.9	40.2	8.9	356.82	399.19	11.9
North Carolina	10.46	10.68	2.1	40.9	41.4	1.2	427.81	442.15	3.4
South Carolina	10.17	10.49	3.1	41.8	42.5	1.7	425.11	445.83	4.9
Tennessee	10.43	10.72	2.8	40.8	39.4	-3.4	425.95	422.37	-0.8
United States	10.71	10.95	2.2	40.9	41.1	0.5	438.04	450.05	2.7

<sup>1/</sup> Average earnings are computed on a gross basis reflecting changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates and variable factors affected by absenteeism, turnover, and items such as premium pay for overtime and late shift work. Average weekly hours represent the number of hours worked or paid and may be affected by absenteeism, turnover, and overtime. All data were compiled by state employment security agencies in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



